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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

NOTES.

"LES IDÉES ÉGALITAIRES"¹ is a discussion of the origin of the idea or ideas of political and social equality. M. Bouglé finds one influential source of these ideas in the growth of large states. By large states he understands not merely states with immense territory, but with a great density of population, and above all, with a great mobility and interchange of commerce and ideas between different parts of the population. In the large social group the individual sees a constantly changing mass of humanity, a fact which gives rise to the formation of broad, universal, and even humanitarian ideas. Again, the lack of familiarity with many of his fellow-citizens comes to inspire a general respect for strangers, which is finally extended to all, whether they are of the same nation as himself or not. Meeting or seeing so many different people must also necessarily diminish the respect for privileged persons in the course of time, thinks the author. This does not necessarily involve the establishment of a democratic government by any means, since the idea of equality prevails among the governed only with respect to each other, not with reference to their rulers. The author traces the growth of ideas of equality from their earliest form, viz., equality between those of the same blood, to the equality of those living in the same territory, and finally, the legal equality of all, irrespective of kin or territory. The reasoning would have been much more forcible had the author given a more careful analysis of the influence of commerce and transportation upon equality. As a consequence of this fault the work seems to exaggerate the influence of the size of political units upon political ideas. When the author comes to explain those large states in which the idea of equality has not made much headway and those small states in which equality does prevail, he is obliged to rely upon the density of the population, and where this explanation fails he falls back upon mobility of the people and the influence of the city upon politics. These latter, then, are the really important factors of the problem, and a more careful study along these lines would add considerable value to the work.

¹ By C. BOUGLÉ. Pp. 249. Price, 3.75 fr. Paris: F. Alcan, 1899.

IN "JAVA ET SES HABITANTS,"¹ M. Chailley-Bert renews his studies of European colonization. The author has already published "*Les Anglais à Hong-Kong*," "*Les Anglais en Birmanie*," and has in preparation "*La Politique et l'administration anglaise aux Indes*," "*La Politique et l'administration hollandaise dans l'Insulinde*," and "*La Politique et l'administration coloniales de l'Ancien Régime*." His object is to offer to French readers a complete description of all the more important dependencies controlled by the great colonial powers. The present work gives a valuable and interesting description of the Dutch colony of Java. The author discusses the character of the natives, of the colonists, the general organization of the administration, the system of education and the weaknesses of the Dutch colonial government. He summarizes the reforms desired as follows:

1. Less power to be given to the regents.
2. Education of the native aristocracy.
3. Checks upon the possible tyranny of the aristocracy.
4. Greater harmony between the European officials and the natives.
5. Better education of the European officials.
6. The revival of a system of protectorate and administrative decentralization.

EVOLUTION MEANS change, and that may imply decay as well as progress. An interesting study of retrogressive evolution in plants, animals and social institutions has just appeared in an English translation by Mrs. Chalmers Mitchell of a French work, "Evolution by Atrophy in Biology and Sociology."²

Without discussing the mooted question of the validity of biological analogies in sociology, the authors, three professors in Brussels, working independently in their respective fields, believe that there are common characters as well as distinctive ones in the comparison of organs and organisms with social institutions and human societies. A comparison of these independent studies of atrophied parts in plant and animal organisms and in social life presents strikingly similar conclusions. Such a study adds many interesting facts to our store of knowledge and has not been the work in either field (biology or sociology) of a workman whose knowledge of one is derived almost

¹ Pp. xviii, 375. Price, 4 fr. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie., 1900.

² L'Évolution Régressive en Biologie et en Sociologie. By JEAN DEMOOR, JEAN MASSART and ÉMILE VANDERVELDE. (Bibliothèque Scientifique Internationale LXXXV). Pp. 324. Price, 6 fr. Paris: Félix Alcan, 1897.

Evolution by Atrophy in Biology and Sociology. International Scientific Series. Pp. 332. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1899.

exclusively from surface analogies in the other. Such work commends itself to good judgment more than most of the results of so-called biological sociology.

The chief conclusions are that retrogression is a universal and necessary complement to progress, that it follows no definite path, and most certainly does not retrace the steps of progressive evolution, and that, especially in the department of social life, its main cause is artificial selection. Other causes of retrogression are found in inutility of function, insufficiency of nutriment or resource, and, in biology only, lack of space.

NAPOLÉON'S WAR MAXIMS¹ is a collection of the most noted military principles which have been credited to Napoleon. The maxims are discussed very briefly by the editor, who cites numerous illustrations of their application in actual warfare. The work also contains a compilation of Napoleon's social and political thoughts, which are far below the military maxims in their general value. Among the most interesting of the political maxims are the following:

"There should be no half responsibility of the administration. It will only cause speculation and the non-performance of the laws."

"Anarchy is the stepping-stone to absolute power."

"A state without an aristocracy is a vessel without a rudder; a balloon in the air."

"Commerce unites men and makes them; therefore it is fatal to despotic power."

"Finances founded on good agricultural prospects will never be destroyed."

"Governments with balanced force are of no value but in times of peace."

"JOHN RUSKIN: SOCIAL REFORMER," by J. A. Hobson,² is an attempt to arrange Ruskin's social philosophy in a logical and orderly discourse, something of which Ruskin himself had no conception whatever. The claim is made that Ruskin is primarily and fundamentally, in all his work as art-critic and man of letters, a political economist, and that he has succeeded in placing political economy upon a sounder scientific and ethical foundation than it had hitherto possessed. Such is the novel and interesting task that the author sets himself. Though an economist of some merit himself and an ardent

¹ L. E. HENRY, B. A., M. R. C. P. Pp. xxiv, 187. Price, 6s. London: Gale & Polden, Ltd., 1899.

² Pp. ix, 357. Price, \$1.50. Boston: Dana, Estes & Co., 1898.

admirer of Ruskin, it is safe to predict that the general verdict will be that Mr. Hobson has failed of his purpose, largely through no fault of his own, but because of the impossibility of his task. Those who love to read Ruskin for his brilliancy of style and vigorous rhetoric and for the general inspiration that comes from a most original and suggestive thinker, who was too erratic and misinformed to be a system maker, will not relish Mr. Hobson's dry pages, while economists will be more amused than convinced by his attempts to fill out the lacunæ in Ruskin's economic reasoning. The biographical chapter is much less interesting and instructive than an equal portion of Collingwood's "Life and Work of John Ruskin." One might also criticise, in the remaining chapters, the failure to interpret Ruskin's peculiar personality in terms of his surroundings, and of the influence of his time.¹

THE LAW OF ELECTRIC WIRES IN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS² contains, in chapters III and IV, an admirable summary of the American law governing the regulation by municipalities of electric light, motor, telegraph and telephone wires. The extended discussion and litigation over franchises in recent years having attracted considerable attention, the author devotes a special chapter to judicial decisions on the grant of franchises for these important purposes.

A REVISED EDITION of Judge Landon's Constitutional History of the United States³ has recently appeared. The original edition of this work published more than a decade since, has been constantly gaining in public favor, owing partly to the fact that it is the only constitutional history of the United States in one volume, and to its clear and succinct presentation of the leading facts in the development of our complex constitutional system. In the new edition the work has been rewritten in part and considerably enlarged. The first two chapters of the original edition, dealing with the colonial and revolutionary periods, have been expanded into four, and two chapters instead of one are devoted to the "Critical Period" of the Confederation and Constitutional Convention. Although the body of the work, dealing with our history under the Constitution, has undergone less

¹ Contributed by Professor S. M. Lindsay.

² By EDWARD Q. KEASBEY. 2d edition. Price, \$4.00. Chicago: Callaghan & Company, 1900.

³ *The Constitutional History and Government of the United States*. Revised edition. By JUDSON S. LANDON, LL. D. Pp. vii, 447. Price, \$3.00. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1900.

change we note here and there an illustrative footnote or a supplementary paragraph, as is notably the case in connection with the history of the events growing out of the recent Spanish war. An additional chapter has been added to the admirable treatment of the judicial system contained in the original edition. In fact, the most valuable feature of the work to the general reader is the excellent presentation of the position and influence of the Federal judiciary in our system. This position is set forth in a scholarly and discriminating review of the great constitutional decisions of the Supreme Court from the earliest cases down to the most recent, with special emphasis on those relating to corporate combinations and territorial expansion. In treating the constitutional issues arising from our most recent acquisitions, the author reaches the conclusion that the Federal Government may exercise in our new possessions "the combined powers of a general and of a state government," but "if the people of these islands become subject to the sovereignty of the United States, it will not be the unlimited sovereignty as exercised in its foreign relations, for the people subject to its sovereignty cannot be foreign to it, but they will be subject to its limited sovereignty, as the constitution confers it over the people under its jurisdiction." The two concluding chapters of the original edition have been recast in the new. They contain a philosophic discussion of some of the reasons for the stability and success of our dual system of government, and point out some of the dangers of the future and their remedies. All of the changes noted enhance the value of an already useful work.

LA RÉNOVATION DE L'ASIE¹ is an interesting discussion of the more recent phases of the Asiatic question, with special reference to the development of Siberia by Russia, the progress of Western ideas and reforms in Japan, and the questions arising from the reform movement in China. The author is of the opinion that progress must move very slowly in the latter country if it is desired to avoid the destruction of the empire. He discusses the weakness of the Peking government, the reform movement under the leadership of Kang-You-Wei, the influence of the Dowager Empress, the palace revolution of 1898, and the possibilities of an eventual partition of China. It is interesting to note that the author classes Germany, Russia and France together as hostile to the open-door policy, Great Britain, the United States and Japan as partisans of that policy. The author concludes in favor of the preservation of the existing government rather

¹ By PIERRE LEROY-BEAULIEU. Pp. xxvii, 482. Price, 4 fr. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie., 1900.

than the establishment of a government which would "give to a few Europeans power over hundreds of millions of Chinese."

A NEW EDITION of Plehn's *Introduction to Public Finance*¹ testifies to the popularity of that work as a college text. Except for the addition of an important chapter on the "Financial Administration of War; Illustrated by the Experience of the United States in the War with Spain," the new edition is so like a reprint of the old that reference to it as "revised" as well as "enlarged" seems scarcely justified. Adams' "Finance" is still spoken of as "announced," and the account of the tariff policy of the United States still concludes with a description of the "recent reforms" of the Wilson act and without any reference to subsequent legislation. These minor points, however, detract but little from the value of the work, and the full account of the financial operations connected with our late war in the chapter referred to, brings it down to date in all essential respects. The chief merits of this as of the earlier edition are its interesting presentations of the facts connected with the financial policies of the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and France and its temperate discussion of principles. In using it no teacher will be under the necessity of antagonizing, and therefore to some extent discrediting, the author as is too frequently the case with text-books on political economy.

WORLD POLITICS AS INFLUENCED BY THE ORIENTAL SITUATION² makes its appearance at a most opportune moment. The author considers the Chinese question to be the centre of interest in international politics; he therefore groups all his material around this central point. In Part I, the growth of the idea of national imperialism is sketched and Machiavelli's place as the philosopher of nationalism is discussed. An interesting though brief comparison of the ancient and modern systems of world politics, the world-embracing empire and the "international equilibrium" is also noteworthy. In this first part the author also calls attention to the rapidly increasing importance of modern transportation systems in determining the political solidarity of colonial empires. After some discussion of the reasons for the success or failure of the different colonizing powers of Europe, Part I concludes with a consideration of the connection between colonization and imperialism, and the consequences of the imperialistic policy. Briefly stated, the author finds the consequences to be, the increase of mutual suspicions among the nations, the growth of an

¹ By CARL C. PLEHN. Pp. vi, 384. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1900.

² By PAUL S. REINSCH, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin. Pp. xviii. 362. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1900.

extreme national feeling which antagonizes individualism, a reaction against the political and social doctrines of liberalism, the increase of one-man power and an accompanying development of aristocratic ideas in the philosophy of the time.

In Part II the author attacks the real subject of his work, "The Opening of China." He states, as the general conclusion of those familiar with Chinese affairs, that "the coal and mineral wealth of China, taken in connection with the vast and highly trained, frugal and capable population, will, during the coming century, make China the industrial centre of the world, and the Pacific the chief theatre of commerce." After a more or less detailed study of the "concessions" and "spheres" acquired by foreign countries in China, Part II concludes with a summary of the existing internal conditions and a prophecy as to the impending industrial revolution in China. Parts III and IV contain an interesting and suggestive discussion of the influence of the Chinese situation upon the policy of Russia and other European countries. Professor Reinsch traces three stages of Russian expansion having for their objective points Constantinople, Afghanistan and China; the Russian system of expansion, furthermore, differs from the English in that England merely superimposes her civilization upon the native races while Russia assimilates them bodily. The author believes that it will be impossible to impose Western civilization upon the Chinese because of their great powers of resistance, but he thinks that they will gladly adopt practical Western methods unless native hostility is aroused by forcible interference with time-honored customs and traditions. Unfortunately, since the work was written, this possibility has been fully realized and the national hatred for foreigners has blazed up in such a way as to prevent the slow, peaceful spread of Western ideas which otherwise might have occurred. Part V sketches very briefly the position of the United States in the East. The author believes that we should refrain from any further territorial acquisitions because of the more profitable opportunity for the development of our resources at home. He concludes with some interesting observations on the increase in the power of the Executive caused by a colonial or imperialistic policy. The general style and arrangement of the work are popular and, in places, a trifle sketchy, but the timeliness of the book atones for much that might otherwise be criticized.

THE RUSSIAN JOURNAL OF FINANCIAL STATISTICS,¹ the first regular number of which appears in September of the present year, is

¹ Edited by CHARLES GOODLET. Published quarterly by G. Barbet de Vaux, Millionaia 23, St. Petersburg.

intended to supply much needed information upon the financial, administrative and internal economic conditions of Russia for the benefit of English and American readers. Such a publication is assured a hearty welcome from economists and publicists who have felt the lack of reliable data upon Russian conditions. Doubtless the Russians themselves have felt the need of a more adequate representation of their interests among the periodical publications of the day than they have hitherto possessed; the specimen numbers which have been distributed are semi-official in tone and very creditable in appearance and general composition.

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN F. SHAMBAUGH¹ has collected the more important newspaper articles and comments upon the Constitutional Conventions of 1844 and 1846 in Iowa, and has attempted to give some description of the proceedings of the conventions from these sources. The result is a very interesting compilation, which will be of great assistance to those engaged in the study of state constitutions. The notes are edited in such a way as to bring out the salient points of the constitution. There are appendices containing valuable data relative to the members of the convention, giving their native states, ages, occupations, and the number of years of residence in Iowa. In the absence of complete records of the convention's proceedings, Professor Shambaugh's compilation will be very useful.

WITH THE periodical recurrence of socialistic agitation one is ever reminded of the confusion in the average mind in the use of the terms socialist and anarchist. Mr. E. V. Zenker, in his "Anarchism: A Criticism and History of the Anarchist Theory"² has given us the first complete statement in the English language of the theories of the leading anarchists. It is a most readable discussion of the social question by one who, while opposed to the theories of the anarchists, nevertheless makes every effort to state their position fairly and sympathetically, because he is interested above all things in interpreting accurately the thoughts and ambitions of the common people. Most of the material relating to Proudhon, including copious extracts from his works should interest a wide range of English readers in a writer of great power, who was little understood outside his own country. The chapter on Stirner is for the most part new ground. The Russian doctrine and Prince Kropotkin are better known. There is

¹ *Fragments of the Debates of the Iowa Constitutional Conventions of 1844 and 1846.* Compiled and edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1900.

² Pp. xiii, 323. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1897.

room to quibble somewhat over Zenker's concept of anarchism and over what he says about Spencer and Professor Ferri's classification of Spencer as an anarchist. Spencer and others have been in a certain justifiable sense classified as scientific anarchists. Mr. Zenker does not appear to be familiar with the thought underlying this classification, and he makes no allowance for it in his interesting and valuable book.

REVIEWS.

Builders of Nova Scotia. A Historical Review. By SIR JOHN G. BOURINOT, K. C. M. G. (Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, 1899.) Pp. 197. Toronto: The Copp-Clark Co., 1900.

In these pages the scholarly chief clerk of the House of Commons offers a popular account of the men and events famous in the formation of the maritime province of Nova Scotia. His historical works, antiquarian learning, long public experience, and services as a writer on the constitutional institutions of Canada, fit him eminently for such a task. The story of the beginnings of civilized life in the Acadian peninsula is briefly but entertainingly told,—the original settlement by French peasants (1604), the foundation of Halifax (1749), the migration from New England (1760), the influx of loyalists (1783), the coming of the Scotch and the Irish. No colony along the Atlantic coast offers so varied a catalogue of racial elements as Nova Scotia. "French Catholics and Huguenots, Puritans and cavaliers of the days of the Stuarts, German Lutherans from the old kingdom of Hanover, Protestants from Montbéliard between the Rhine and the Rhone, Scots from the Highlands, the Hebrides and Lowlands, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from the north and Catholic Celts from the south of Ireland, Englishmen from the hop-gardens of Kent and meadows of Devon, from all parts of the ancient kingdoms where Celt, Saxon and Norman have blended in the course of centuries—all these have contributed to form the people who have made the Acadian peninsula and the island of Cape Breton such prosperous and influential sections of the Dominion" (p. 61).

Religion has always exercised a notable influence on the Nova Scotians,—hence a series of succinct but accurate retrospects of the chief events in the development of those churches that claim the allegiance of large bodies of citizens—the Roman Catholic, Church of England, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran, to rank them according to membership. Dr. Bourinot has been so long identified with the public life of Nova Scotia, being himself from Cape Breton and a historian of the island, that his reminiscences of the statesmen